

ARTGAZE

townsville's arts magazine

winter



AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL OF
CHAMBER MUSIC

FAREWELL FROM
THE PUBLISHER

FREE ARTS GUIDE

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[kop-ee-rahyt]
—noun
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zookini
JENNY ORCHARD
XSTRATA CHILDREN'S EXHIBITION

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Plant-Animal Prints: 11am - 1pm Sunday 5 June 2011
Use different print techniques to create your own plant-animal artworks.

Plant-People Plates: 11am - 1pm Sunday 19 June 2011
Create a plate artwork with a selection of your own plant-people designs.

Zookini Sculpture: 11am - 1pm Sunday 10 July 2011
Construct your own Zookini sculptures using clay.

Artwork: Ceramic artworks by Jenny Orchard.
Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
Cnr. Denham and Flinders Streets, Townsville QLD 4810
Mon - Fri 10am - 5pm; Sat - Sun 10am - 2pm; Closed Public Holidays
07 4727 9011 ptrg@townsville.qld.gov.au
www.townsville.qld.gov.au

TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Farewell

from Publisher & Editor

JAK HENSON

This issue of *Art Gaze* will be the last magazine that I will be publishing. I am handing over the reins to a local arts organisation with a variety of skilled members who will continue *Art Gaze* in the same spirit as it has been for over three years.

I would like to thank the local arts community and everyone that has played a part in *Art Gaze* and supported me and the magazine since 2007. I would like to particularly thank Dr Anne Lord and Dr Stephen Naylor at James Cook University and a personal friend, Stephen Crowley who were fundamental in the creation of *Art Gaze*. Thank you to Frances Thomson, Director of Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, and Vicki Salisbury, Director of Umbrella Studios, for your

support of the magazine throughout its development. Lastly, thank you to all the contributors, sponsors and the readers.

I expect some inevitable changes in the progression of the magazine, and I am looking forward to seeing *Art Gaze* grow under the control of a new fresh team of people, who have the same passion for the arts as I do. So, keep an eye out for the next issue.

I can't yet release the name of the new publishing organisation, but I can say that we will be having a hand-over party—dates to be confirmed. The next issue will be released 1 September and I can't wait to see it. But for now, please enjoy the Winter issue.

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Nicola Leahey in MASS (created by Artistic Director Raewyn Hill), Image: Bottlebrush Photography



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front cover

Detail of Toydeath from Electro Fringe, Details on page 16

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Arts News

STRAND Ephemera 2011

38 Artworks have been selected from local and national artists to exhibit from 2–12 September, along Townsville's Strand. The event will include tours, a public forum and much more. Contact Perc Tucker Regional Gallery for further details. 4727 9011

Townsville artist in the BRITISH MUSEUM

Tate Adams has recently had his etching titled, *Maura*, enter the collection of the British Museum. The work is from his *Elegies* series, created in 2009, which is based on the *Riders to the Sea*—an Irish play, written by John Millington Synge and first performed in 1904 in Dublin. The acquisition by the British Museum was co-ordinated by Frances Thomson, Director of Perc Tucker Regional Gallery. *Maura* was printed by local printmaker, Jo Lankester, who has worked with Adams to produce an edition of the print.

International success at first exhibition

Congratulations to local emerging artist James Ellis who recently sold one of his sculptures from his exhibition, *Paradoxymoron*, at Umbrella Studio, to a collector in Holland!



Ian Kaddy (left) and Gail Mabo (right) with Michael Snelling, CIAF curator in 2010

Funding for Murris In Ink

The Minister has announced a \$10 000 commission for the Murris in Ink artists to create work for the 2011 Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair. Read more about this story on page 7.



Tate Adams, *Maura*, 2010, Etching

Shakespeare Under the Stars returns

The curtains closed recently on The Australian Shakespeare Company's production of *Macbeth* in Melbourne. The production starred local thespian Terri Brabon, the Director of Shakespeare Under the Stars, in the lead role of Lady Macbeth and Brendan O'Connor as Macduff. The couple will be returning to Townsville for the The Shakespeare Under the Stars 2011 season launch to be held Tuesday 21 June, 6pm at Umbrella Studio. Free to attend and all welcome.

Gesture for JAPAN

At the opening of *In The Japanese Manner* at Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, members of the community left their signature as a gesture of support and kind wishes to those affected by the tsunami that hit Japan on 11 March. Initiated by Teruko Nakamura, President of the Australia Japan Society's Townsville Branch, who opened the exhibition, Nakamura said the book would be sent to Japan.

AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL OF CHAMBER MUSIC

International Musicians on a local stage



Image courtesy of Australian Festival of Chamber Music

Whether you are new to chamber music or an avid admirer of the art form, there is something for everyone at Australian Festival of Chamber Music.

Now in its 21st year the Australian Festival of Chamber Music (AFCM) has been a regular highlight of winter for locals, and an annual pilgrimage for many music lovers from interstate who venture north for warmer climes to a place where winter sounds wonderful.

Last year nearly ten thousand people attended the Festival many of them visiting from interstate and overseas, each contributing to the local economy by visiting other local tourist attractions and spending money on restaurants, accommodation, locally created art, and tours of the region.

But why do they come here? What is it about the Festival that draws them back each year? And what does this year have in store for us?

The AFCM is recognised as the most prestigious international chamber music event in the southern hemisphere and for the past two years has won ABC Limelight Magazine's Best Festival/Event Award. In addition many of the Festival performances are broadcast

'Reputation of the Festival has travelled the world'

live on ABC Classic Radio sharing this great Townsville event with rest of the country.

Its profile is further enhanced by initiatives which support and encourage young musicians like the AFCM

Winterschool . The Winterschool brings high school music students and emerging artists from across Australia, together with Festival musicians, all experts in their field, for mentoring and coaching as well as providing opportunities to perform.

The Young Families Concert hosted by Steve Price brings music to a younger audience, encouraging their involvement in music, which can have a

profound effect on their development. It is proven that children who are engaged in arts activities, especially music, have advantages in all areas of learning so this concert is a great introduction for the whole family.

"The reputation of the Festival has travelled around the world, it's much loved and acknowledged for its excellence by industry professionals as well as music lovers so it's a great privilege to have the opportunity to be involved," said AFCM General Manager, and former professional musician, Sue Hackett.

The Festival is well known for having a relaxed atmosphere where audiences can mingle with world-class musicians, something that is not so common outside of Townsville. This is a unique selling point of the AFCM for patrons and musicians alike, they all enjoy the informal interaction and shared experience.

"There is also a huge amount of respect out there for celebrated Artistic Director, pianist, Piers Lane, the AFCM is very fortunate to have such a brilliant artistic leader" Sue continued.

The Festival this year will be the most vibrant and diverse programme to date celebrating the Festival's 21st anniversary and the anniversaries of some of history's most prolific classical composers.

Held in venues across Townsville from 29th July–6th August, the Festival will see a mix of exciting new international artists like violist Rivka Golani (Israel/UK) and violinist Philippe Graffin (France), with not-to-be missed performances from long-time favourites including cellist Louise Hopkins (UK),



From left: Michael Collins, Kees Boersma and Louise Hopkins

clarinettist Michael Collins (UK), pianist Danny Driver (UK) and the sensational UK violinist couple Victoria Sayles and Jack Liebeck joining Australian counterparts double bass player Kees Boersma, bassoonist Matthew Wilkie and Synergy Percussion's Timothy Constable.

At the ripe age of 74, phenomenal pianists and identical twins Richard and John Contiguglia (USA) will make their Australian debut showcasing their versatile talents.

The Governor's Gala features the full force of the The Queensland Symphony Orchestra conducted by Johannes Fritzsch in a spectacular program of concertos with festival soloists. Another highlight of the program will be Piers Lane performing with Australian soprano Lisa Gasteen, in her much-anticipated return to singing following a neck injury in 2009.

"Piers Lane brings together the finest musicians in a programme that ignites

spectacular performances, they become the stuff of legend - and all in Townsville's perfect tropical winter weather. What could be better!" said Sue.

Australian Festival of Chamber Music
29 July–6 August 2011
Townsville
www.afcm.com.au
Tickets – 07 4727 9797

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CAIRNS INDIGENOUS ARTS FAIR

19–21 August

Umbrella Studio has promoted locally produced Indigenous art at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF) for the past three years, but what is the event and why is it so important to the development of local artistic talent in Townsville?

This citywide art fair is a colossal event and opportunity to showcase the work of talented local artists to prestigious commercial and public galleries, knowledgeable collectors from around the world and others interested in collecting artworks from North Queensland.

In 2010 over 10,500 people attended and more than \$723,000 worth of art was sold by commercial dealers, remote art centres and arts organisations. The fair is big business, generating a combined value of over \$ 1.8 million in tourism expenditure and in only it's first two years developed the reputation as a premier Indigenous art fair in Australia.

This year CIAF will be held at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal (CCLT) Heritage Shed 3 at the waterfront in Cairns city. It has always been intended that the Art Fair would be held at this city location part of a massive cultural precinct redevelopment.

The serenity of the Botanical Gardens setting of the Tank Arts Centre, the venue for the past two years, will be missed but the new venue will attract wider audiences at the new city location.



James Billy, [Ceramic mask], Image courtesy of Umbrella Studios

CIAF is only part of an inclusive citywide festival with spin-off events in public spaces, all of the city's galleries and more. The finest of North Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island art

They also encourage visitors arriving by car by not only having ample parking but issuing warning tickets for over stayers rather which is a welcoming gesture. Businesses also welcome

'CIAF is only part of an inclusive citywide festival'

will be showcased in Cairns venues with special openings at KickArts, The Cairns Regional Gallery, Djumbunjji Press, New Flames and Canapé' Arts.

The Cairns City Council encourages citywide participation and promotes all of the arts venues by providing a free shuttle bus service to encourage visitors to explore what the city has on offer.

festivalgoers by offering discounts at restaurants and accommodation.

CIAF offers an eclectic range of events, including the James Cook University Symposium held at the Jute Theatre, as well as Indigenous dance and performances, and a full schedule of hands-on workshops for all ages. This is a casual art fair with festive atmosphere.

CIAF emerges as an important platform for industry development as well as supporting public education and professional development. With support from Arts Queensland, Queensland

the group decided to form a permanent artist collective to work and exhibit together – *Murris In Ink*. This *Ngapa / Kai Kai* exhibition has experienced great success and is currently on a two-year

'Currently on display at Pinnacles Gallery as part of the EMERET LU Exhibition until 12 June'

Tourism and the Cairns City Council, participating artists and organisations are contributing to the future of a sustainable arts industry in Queensland.

Last year at CIAF Umbrella Studio launched *Ngapa / Kai Kai*, (water/food) a folio of 11 linocut prints by 7 Townsville artists; Donna Ives, Ian Kaddy, Susan Nampitjin Peters, Gail Mabo, Aicey Zaro, James Billy and Shirley Collins Yumala. Subsequently

tour of Australia. *Murris in Ink* has held exhibitions of their work at other Townsville galleries and overseas, with some members holding local workshops and participating in residencies. Their works are in many public and private collections across Australia such as the State Library and the City of Townsville Art Collection, which are currently on display at Pinnacles Gallery as part of the *EMERET LU* exhibition until 12 June.

In preparation for the CIAF many of the group have been working for several months with master printer Ron McBurnie to create a new collection. Torres Strait Island artist, James Billy created a collection of sculptural ceramic masks and carved vessels to accompany his new linocut prints. Gail Mabo is weaving bamboo into an installation of shrimp scoops. Ian Kaddy has completed six new works depicting Torres Strait Island Dance, and Susan Peters has produced a series of exquisitely delicate lino prints of flora from her country in WA.

Artspaced Inc. EVOLUTION

BY JACQUI STOCK

Sitting with Jeanette Hutchinson while we enjoyed a glass of good red wine we discussed the evolution of Artspaced Inc., Townsville's own artist run contemporary art gallery currently housed in the Dance North building on Stanley Street in the city's CBD.

As always when the subject of her pet project comes up, the enthusiasm Hutchinson has for her work and its evolving conceptual development is obvious, and with eyes sparkling she describes the changing directions the past two years have seen the corporation take.

Since its beginning in March 2009, Artspaced Inc.'s concept was to be supportive of all artists, emerging and established, creating a forum for their work outside the more usual gallery spaces available in the city.

"I liked the idea that by encouraging emerging and younger artists to exhibit with their more established and experienced peers; we could link

them up and create a forum with a mentoring element,"

"The idea will always be to have a focus on art that has a 'cutting edge' aesthetic or which has a direct link to what was cutting edge art, to have artists who still push the boundaries or at least create new work with some sort of significant history or input in producing contemporary art pieces."

This attitude has created connections that can be built on within the regional arts community both for artists and for the public.

One such avenue of expansion, which has come into being during the past year, has been the idea of taking contemporary art into the wider regional community.

"Taking our ideas about contemporary art out to areas where they are not as easily accessed, in a real portable form, was delightful," said Hutchinson.



Jeanette Hutchinson, Director of Artspaced Inc.

Jeanette Hutchinson, with the assistance of Shane Keen, developed Artspaced Inc. as an artist run initiative. Keen is currently the main Curator for the Gallery, a job which he accomplishes while also working on various personal projects in Townsville and Brisbane.

The idea of taking art into the wider region was helped into reality by sponsorship given by corporate giant BHP enabling Keen with fellow artist

Jacqueline Jakovljevic to conduct a Screen Printing workshop for young people at the P.C.Y.C. in Cloncurry in June 2010.

The concept will be continued later this year, thanks once again to BHP, with a 'Felting workshop' to be conducted by Textile Artist Katelyn Aslett with hands on support by Hutchinson for adults at the 'Crafty Old Schoolhouse' at McKinlay, a small community approximately 2 hours outside of Cloncurry, which will culminate in a fashion show to be held at an upcoming 2011 Country Racing Meet later this year.

In-house workshops for Townsville youth were also held in 2011 such as the 'KRUMP@ZINE', a form of Hip Hop Dance Workshop, and the 'Zine', short form for self-published Fanzine or Magazine Workshop, where participants created their own 'Zines' from found objects and recycled items enabling them to translate their personal worlds' using cut and paste techniques.

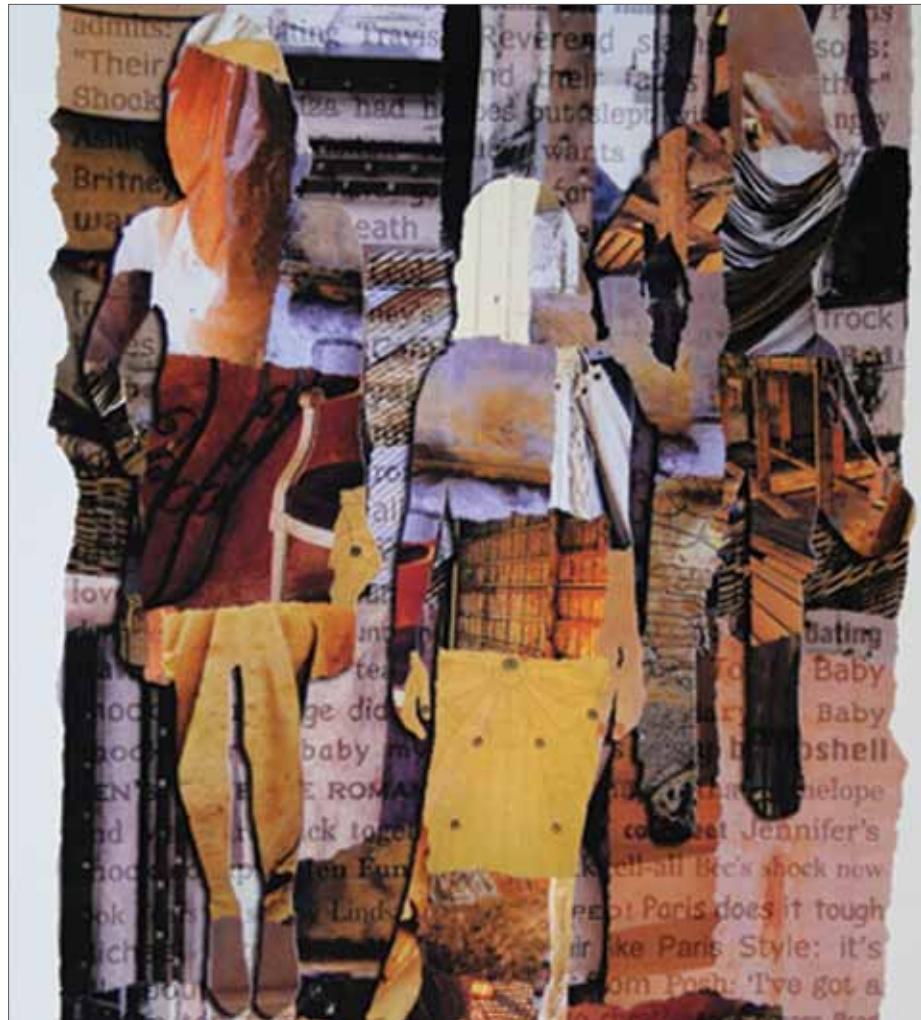
The Gallery initially held multiple exhibitions on a concurrent basis with a monthly turnover, an admirable effort but one which left little time for expanding other facets of the cooperatives vision.

Artspaced Inc. has slowed its frenetic pace this year to allow them to concentrate on gallery development, and on offering more opportunities for artists.

Natasha Wills, who was mentored by Hutchinson through the Starburst Youth Regional Mentoring Program, offered by Youth Arts Queensland, to produce a significant body of works for incorporation into the Gallery's most recent exhibition and event 'Undergrind', has recently joined the Artspaced Inc. family taking on the role of Gallery Assistant. This position will enable Wills to learn the skills of curating and installing exhibitions, thus furthering her artistic knowledge and opportunities.

As always however there are new exhibitions and events to be held and this year is no exception.

The current project is '25 Women' a major fundraising event supporting the Women's Centre Townsville and held in conjunction with the Centenary of International Women's Day, to be



Laurel McKenzie, Detail of *Limelighters III, 2nd State*, 2010, Mixed Media

opened on the 21/05/11 with a Gala Night and further celebrated with an official exhibition opening with a more relaxed soiree on the 05/06/11.

Townsville has come to expect big things from these gallery openings and in usual Artspaced style the event will be an extravaganza with music and dancing, performance art, comedy and canapés. There will be a cocktail bar, a mini auction and a raffle, prizes including a piece of wearable art donated by Katelyn Aslett Artisan Couture.

"At most events we have had a diverse range of age groups attending which serves to increase understanding between various forms of arts expression."

Artspaced Inc. have always been happy to support young musicians along with other aspects of the arts such as 'film' with their most recent event of this type being the inclusion of Richard Lowenstein's Documentary work at the opening of 'Undergrind'.

Hutchinson is quick to point out that these events would not be possible without the amazing support the arts initiative has received from the Townsville Arts and Business community.

Artspaced has received valuable support and encouragement from Dance North's Peter Helft and Raewin Hill, Perc Tucker Regional Gallery's, Frances Thomson and other arts organisations in Townsville.

The support of their foundational sponsors; The Brewery and Horizon Gourmet Meats has also enabled the success of Artspaced Inc.'s journey over the past two years.

There's always more to come so be on the lookout for some surprises from Artspaced Inc in the future.

"Artspaced Inc. will always be looking for ways outside the square to increase their growth and independence, we are the eccentric side of Townsville's Art Scene and that's one thing which won't change," said Hutchinson.

MUST SEE Art Guide for WINTER

CURRENT—UNTIL 3 JULY

Art Exhibitions

Paper Bird

Jo Lankester & Hannah Murray

Main Space

Non-toxic intaglio printmaking, drawing and collage, represents a mutual association with the symbolic and aesthetic qualities of birds and their habitats.

Institutionalized

by Simon Reid & Luke Stefanos

Vault Space

Umbrella Studios

482 Flinders St West, 4772 7109

www.umbrella.org.au

CURRENT—UNTIL 10 JULY

Art Exhibition

Zookini

Xstrata Children's Exhibition

Refer to page 14 for details

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery

Cnr Denham & Flinders St

4727 9011

ptrg@townsville.qld.gov.au

CURRENT—UNTIL 14 AUGUST

Art Exhibition

In The Japanese Manner

(A touring exhibition from the National Gallery of Australia)

Refer to page 13 for details

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery

Cnr Denham & Flinders St

4727 9011

ptrg@townsville.qld.gov.au

FRIDAY 3 JUNE

Art Exhibition Opening, 7pm

Reversing Forward

by Selena Smith

Exhibiting until 6 July

Studio 2

486–488 Flinders St West, Townsville

www.studio2townsville.org



Nicola Leahey in MASS (created by Artistic Director Raewyn Hill), Image: Bottlebrush Photography

4 JUNE—UNTIL 26 JULY

Art Exhibition

The Beauty of Nature

GS Gallery

The Good Shepherd Home
University Road, Annandale

nknightgallery@gmail.com
Nadia Knight: 47250250



Paul Haefliger, Sublime Point above Bulli, 1936, woodcut

SUNDAY 5 JUNE

Art exhibition opening and

Artist Talk by Alison McDonald

11:30am

Flow

Opening 5 June to coincide with World Environment Day, this temporary public artwork is a waterfall created from over 20,000 upcycled plastic lids. The artwork will cascade off the east wall of the Umbrella Studio building, to highlight environmental responsibility, particularly with recycled plastics that continue to pollute the Great Barrier Reef and then the Pacific Ocean. (Image opposite)

Exhibiting until 25 June

TUESDAY 21 JUNE

Performance

Season launch of Shakespeare Under the Stars 2011 – Laughter is the best medicine

Join Shakespeare Under the Stars Director Terri Brabon and her cast at the season launch of their productions for this year; Shakespeare's the Merry Wives of Windsor in September and COSI by Louis Nowra an Australian play to be performed in July. The evening will be an opportunity to hear about the productions for this year, meet the cast and enjoy a sneak preview.

Umbrella Studios
482 Flinders St West, 4772 7109
www.umbrella.org.au

25, 26 JUNE & 2, 3, 4 JULY

Workshop

Introduction to Screen Printing

Take the mystic out of screen printing and learn how to screen print textiles with Maxine Smith.

Members: \$320 + \$30 Materials

Non-Members: \$380 + \$30 Material

Umbrella Studios
482 Flinders St West, 4772 7109
www.umbrella.org.au

TUESDAY 28—THURSDAY 30 JUNE

Theatre production

Breast Wishes

Breast Wishes is an uplifting new Australian musical about life, love, family and silicon.

28 June, 7.30pm

9 June, 7.30pm

11am and 7.30pm

Townsville Civic Theatre
41 Boundary Street, South Townsville
4727 9797
www.townsvillecivictheatre.com.au

30 JUNE, 1,2,3,7,8 AND 9 JULY

Performance

MASS

7pm

new full length work by Artistic Director
Raewyn Hill

Thursday 30 June

Friday 1 July - Sunday 3 July

Thursday 7 July - Saturday 9 July

TICKETS:

\$35 Adult, \$33 Concession, \$28
Company Member, \$15 Student

Dancenorth

Cnr Walker & Stanley Sts, Townsville

4772 2549

www.dancenorth.com.au

8 JULY—UNTIL 30 JULY

Art Exhibition

Conquest Mining Art Competition
The Don Roderick Gallery Group

Conquest Mining Art Competition

Stock exchange arcade
76 Mosman Street, upstairs,
Charters Towers



Artwork in progress by Alison McDonald for *Flow*

8 JULY—14 AUGUST

Art Exhibitions

Bagu with Jiman

Girringun Indigenous Artists

A Vault Space installation of clay, timber and string artworks based on the traditional fire making implements of the Girringun rainforest Aboriginal people.

Gin and Tonic

Donna Ives, Gail Mabo, Susan Peters and Shirley Collins

In the Access Space, mixed media works, including printed works on paper, acrylic on canvas and installation made from recycled materials are used to deconstruct and reconstruct racial slurs that have penetrated the psyche of Indigenous women.

Shake it up Baby...

A Main Space exhibition by photographer, film maker, writer, installation artist, broadcaster and performer Destiny Deacon. Working from her Melbourne studio to Umbrella Studio, the artist presents a new view of Indigenous perspectives in digital media and installation.

Umbrella Studios
482 Flinders St West, 4772 7109
www.umbrella.org.au

WED 13 JULY—THURS 14 JULY

Theatre production

Turns

7:30pm

Pantomime star Marjory Joy [Nancy Hayes] is on her last legs (or is she?). As she reflects on a life spent in show business (or was it?), her son Alistair [Reg Livermore] tries to understand this woman, all women and to come to terms with one woman in particular.

Townsville Civic Theatre
41 Boundary Street, South Townsville
4727 9797
www.townsvillecivictheatre.com.au



Image courtesy of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music

20 JULY—24 JULY

Theatre production

My Fair Lady

Presented by the Townsville Choral Society

Townsville Civic Theatre

41 Boundary Street, South Townsville

4727 9797

www.townsvillecivictheatre.com.au

29 JULY—6 AUGUST

Australian Festival of Chamber Music

Refer to page 5 for details, or
full programme available at

<http://www.afcm.com.au/programmes/2011/index.html>

MON 8 AUG—TUES 9 AUG

Theatre Production

La Traviata Oz Opera

7:30pm

Verdi's sumptuous and luscious score is based on Alexandre Dumas' novel The Lady of the Camellias — a sad and tragic story about a young, beautiful courtesan.

Townsville Civic Theatre
41 Boundary Street, South Townsville
4727 9797
www.townsvillecivictheatre.com.au

MAGIC MESSAGES

**Alison
McDonald**

BY ANNEKE SILVER

I caught up with Alison McDonald at her studio while she was working on *FLOW* an artwork that will be featured on the outside wall of Umbrella Studio opening on the fifth of June. *FLOW* is made entirely out of recycled materials, in this case cable ties and brightly coloured plastic bottle tops. The latter are an end product in recyclable plastics and can no longer be made into anything else. They find their way into the ocean where fish and birds mistake them for food, eventually dying of starvation because the plastic fills their stomach. Alison confesses to a love-hate relationship with the material: hates the effects the plastics have on nature but loves exploring the creative possibilities of single use plastic objects. She has a growing reputation for creating spectacular art works from throw-away materials. Her works have featured in a number of group and solo shows in Townsville and other centres. Just how much her reputation is growing nationally and internationally is demonstrated by her work being placed in the Royal North Shore Hospital last year. But even more exciting is that she was recently contacted by the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey (California) asking her if she was

interested in a commission for an installation in the Aquarium. No prize for guessing what her answer was! The interesting thing is that this invitation is purely by the strength of her work shown on her website. There were no mediators, no galleries, promoters or art establishments involved. It was simply: good work on good website. This is heartening for artists working in regional locations, away from the centres where access to international promoters is more readily available. Clearly, distance no longer matters! This demonstrates the power of the internet as a great equaliser for regional practitioners.

Alison explained about the art work she has now completed for Monterey. (The Aquarium by the way is housed in the old cannery around which Steinbeck's book *Cannery Row* was written.) The art work is now ready and on its way. Titled *Message in a bottle*, it is about the algae which inhabit the waters of Monterey Bay where the aquarium is located. They play an important part in maintaining water quality. Extensive research in their shapes and habitat lead Alison to cut the intricate shapes of botanically correct species of algae out of the side of throw-away plastic

bottles, which are placed sideways. She then flips the cut-out up, to ride on top of the bottles with their negative shapes as reflections below. These become spectacular pieces, the cut edges amplifying available light. The green collar and strap is left on which provides a nice touch of inbuilt colour. The finely serrated leaves take months to cut from the tough plastic.

Recently two members of the Aquarium's film and video production unit came to Townsville specially to film Alison at work in her outdoor studio, to video her artist statement. This will be shown on monitors next to her art work. Alison's *Message in a bottle* will be displayed in a specially constructed dark space where they will be individually lit, highlighting the luminous edges of the cuts and their intricate patterns. She has designed the twelve bottles to be placed in layers representing the levels at which the various algae live. The work will remain on display for 10- 15 years

Alison and her family are going over for the Grand Donor's Opening on 1 July, She will be here to install *FLOW* at Umbrella. Watch that space!



Detail of artwork by Alison McDonald for *Flow*

Curator, Roger Butler IN THE JAPANESE MANNER

At Perc Tucker Regional Gallery until 14 August



Paul Haefliger, b.1914
Germany, *The Blue
Feather*, c.1932, Japan,
woodcut, Collection of the
National Gallery of Australia

BY JAK HENSON

Senior Curator of prints at the National Gallery of Australia, Roger Butler AM, recently visited Townsville for the opening of his curated exhibition, *In the Japanese Manner*. Butler delivered a presentation on 21 May about the exhibition, discussing significant works that are included and gave context to the prints in regards to Australia's history.

The exhibition includes prints from between 1900 and 1940 from artists across Australia, such as Paul Haefliger, Ethel Spowers, Margaret Preston, who was based in Sydney, Lionel Lindsay from Melbourne and others from South Australia and Western Australia. Although it's interesting to see the geographical spread of artists, the works were only selected for their Japanese influenced style.

Due to Australian artists having more access to traditional Japanese prints



Ethel Spowers, b. 1890 Australia, *The Bamboo Blind*, c.1926,
linocut, Collection of the National Gallery of Australia

in the early 1900's, they began to experiment and adopt techniques. The traditional Japanese woodblock prints had a few major differences to the western styles they were familiar with. The most obvious being their asymmetrical composition with parts of the imagery cut off by the edge of the print, which was experimented with by the Australian printmakers. The other major differences were more material and technique based. Japanese artists used watercolour that they brushed onto their woodblock, which resulted in an uneven spread of paint across the print. Western printmakers traditionally used oil or gouache, which they rolled onto the block. Japanese paper was not available in Australia at that time, so Preston tried to assimilate the delicate thin texture by using butchers paper, (though she framed the works in large red shiny frames, which was a western tradition). By the 1930-40's Australian artists began to move away from the traditional woodblock, using lino or screen printing as it was easier to work with, and their imagery became more illustrative and saturated with colour in comparison to the subtle watercolours of Japanese prints.

The most well-known artist within the exhibition is Margaret Preston, which Butler is very familiar with, publishing *The prints of Margaret Preston* in 1987—which he revised in 2005. Preston was the most well travelled printmaker in the early 1900's, giving her more exposure to different international styles. Butler told the story

of Preston marrying a younger man, and her fortune in that if she came home and made a subtle comment that there was a ship in the harbour heading overseas shortly, her husband would surprise her with two tickets for them to board the ship. Butler also gave some insight into the relationship between Preston and Thea Proctor (another printmaker in the exhibition), who were quite competitive with one another. Preston arrived at the opening of an exhibition they held together with a celebratory cake, and finding out that the Gallery of NSW had purchased one of Proctor's works for their collection, and not hers, she responded by rolling the cake through the middle of the gallery. Butler didn't elaborate on Proctor's response, or members of the audience, but he did suggest that they remained somewhat friendly towards each other throughout their careers.

Butler delivered an entertaining and informative insight into a piece of Australian printmaking history, which can be referred to in his books *Printed images in Colonial Australia 1801-1901* and the second volume, *Printed images by Australian artists 1885-1955*. His third volume, which he is currently working on, is eagerly awaited as it will bring the history of printmaking in Australia up to the present time. Butler commented that Townsville's Tate Adams AM is highly regarded within this volume as he was instrumental in Australian printmaking.

ZOOKINI Xstrata Children's exhibition

Featuring JENNY ORCHARD

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
Until 10 July 2011

BY ALAN JUNIOR



Artwork by one of Australia's leading ceramicists, Jenny Orchard



Mural by Jenny Finn. (Inset image: Close-up of clay sculptures made by children and displayed as sculptures in front of the mural)

It only dawned on me that the title of this exhibition was a play on the words "Zoo" and "Zucchini" when I was explaining to a friend that I was going to visit it at the Perc Tucker Regional Gallery. When you walk into the exhibition, you understand almost immediately why this word play makes so much sense.

Zookini is the Xstrata Children's Exhibition running until 10 July. The headline artist of this show is Jenny Orchard whose work is unlike anything I've ever seen before. Jenny creates glazed clay creatures, which look like hybrids of animals and plants. She sculpts each one by hand using organic shapes and textures derived from the natural world, far from anything man-made. But she also creates her work in the flat 2D world, starting them out as ink paintings on transparent paper, or etchings, and even develops that work further using digital imaging to add colour and tone. The exhibition features a nice collection of each of her different mediums and stages of work on these quirky creatures that look like a herd of misfits. But if you delve into the accompanying storybook *Fixing Kablooky* (on sale at the gallery) you'll find that the creatures are actually quite

normal amongst each other, and care about the preservation of their planet. Perhaps we could learn something from them?

Jenny's work is not made for children. She hasn't set out to make toys or images for children to enjoy and play with. The fact that they appeal to children so much is entirely of coincidence, but one that the staff at Perc Tucker have fully exploited to the community's advantage. The team has designed an exhibition, which also includes many local artists who have created interactive areas and activities that mash together with Jenny's work to involve the visitors. The areas range from a fun dress up corner by Christine Spain and Mel Williams, where children can try on creature costumes, mixing and matching things as they see fit in front of a mirror, to a *Creatures of the Deep* projection realm by Robert Crispe, which invites children to make shapes over the projections using their arms and bodies. Jenny Finn is another artist who helped create an interactive activity. Her mural covers the walls of a niche space at the gallery, titled the *Zookini Clay Forest* where children can make small sculptures using the coloured



Installation view of Robert Crispe's video projections

clays provided, to help decorate the walls. Lastly, there is the work of Hugh Martin – though his work would actually be the *first* you see. This is because Hugh has created large-scale butterflies and caterpillars which hang from the outside of the gallery, not menacing, but inviting people to find out just what is going on inside. There's also an activity where children can create a face-plate of their own creature, and paste it on the

wall. All of this and more is included in the complimentary activity book which enhances the exploration of the wacky wonderland, encouraging children to draw their own creature, and describe the creatures they see.

The amount of work and interactivity in this exhibition is fantastic to see in Townsville, and scaled up, it would be on par with the kind of things that

people see at the Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane; more so when it's coupled with the free workshops for children and families that run right up until the end of the exhibit. *Zookini* is a great way to introduce children to a gallery, and the staff and artists have made it very playful, intuitive, and even educational.

More Townsville arts reviews by Alan at <http://alanjunior.wordpress.com>



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Engaging with the FRINGE OF ELECTRONICS

CARA-ANN SIMPSON

The new exhibition at eMerge Media Space at the School of Creative Arts, James Cook University is an eye and ear opening experience, presenting national and local artists engaged with electronic arts. *Electrofringe in Townsville*, the exhibition, runs from 20 May to 3 July 2011.

The exhibition and other events associated with *Electrofringe in Townsville* is the beginning of a new partnership between Electrofringe Ltd (an electronic arts organisation well-known for its annual festival in Newcastle as part of This Is Not Art festival), the School of Creative Arts at James Cook University and Cereal Box (a Renew Townsville initiative). *Electrofringe in Townsville* is the first project for Electrofringe's new direction into touring exhibitions, workshops, performances, and artist talks to regional Australia, and is the 2011 satellite exhibition for Electrofringe.

On entry to the eMerge Media Space the viewer is immediately immersed in an array of artwork revealing the breadth and depth of electronic and new media art in Australia. The exhibition draws together an eclectic group of artists including Samuel Bruce (Western Sydney, NSW), Danny Ford (Toowoomba, QLD), Alexandra Gillespie (Canberra, ACT), Toydeath (Sydney, NSW), and local artists Robert Crispe (3rd year SoCA student), Adam Brown, and collaborative team Steven Campbell and Mitch Goodwin. From Bruce's contained sound objects exploring death and deconstruction to Brown's interactive political statement where the viewer can take away a copy

Image: Samuel Bruce,
Art is great to waste time before dying, 2010
electronics, bone, plywood

eMerge Media Space
School of Creative Arts James Cook University
James Cook Drive, Douglas Campus, Townsville
Contact: gallery@jcu.edu.au for more information.
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am - 4pm, closed weekends & public holidays
Free carpark on campus opposite School of Creative Arts
Public transport: Buses 99 or 1A from City Mall or Stockland Shopping Centre

 JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA

 eMerge
MEDIA | SPACE

 cerealbox
Artist Run Initiative
361 Hindmarsh Mall, Townsville, QLD 4810

 Toydeath

of the data on cassette tape (remember to take a blank tape with you to the exhibition) - *Electrofringe in Townsville* is exciting, engaging and electronic.

Robert Crispe's work, *A Toxic Galax-sea* is a remarkably resolved and sophisticated projection work considering the young artist is only half-way through his final year of the Bachelor of New Media Arts at JCU. The local component of the exhibition demonstrates the high quality of electronic and new media art in Townsville and the potential the new degree can offer artists wanting to engage with evolving media art forms.

In addition to the exhibition, Electrofringe jointly organised a two day workshop at Cereal Box where sixteen participants worked with Nick Wishart from Toydeath (a circuit bending Sydney-based band with an international cult following) to create their very own circuit bent instruments from toys on the 21-22 May. Nick also delivered an artist talk at the opening

of the exhibition at eMerge Media Space about the various circuit bending hotspots around the world and how the everyday can be transformed into creative and inspiring instruments for noise making.

Both events demonstrate the potential engagement electronic media can engender in new audiences. The burgeoning partnership between Electrofringe and the School of Creative Arts is committed to building on this foundation in the forthcoming years.

Cara-Ann Simpson is the Co-Director and Co-Producer of Electrofringe and is currently based in Melbourne. Cara-Ann came up to Townsville to open the exhibition at eMerge Media Space, JCU, and to deliver lectures to students at the School of Creative Arts. This Is Not Art festival and Electrofringe festival will take place from 29 September to 3 October 2011 in Newcastle, NSW. For more information about Electrofringe: www.electrofringe.net.

SHORT FICTION

Ravaged

WRITTEN BY JO EBERHARDT

Bang! Bang! Bang! Crack!

The boy gave a whoop of joy as the branch he'd braced against a knee-high rock shattered satisfactorily under his sneakered foot.

"Hey! Check this out!" an excited voice called.

He turned and scanned The Wasteland, as they had come to call the area. Until a month ago, it had been a verdant field of grass—picnic tables scattered enticingly amongst the trees and gardens. And then the floods had come. Now it looked like something out of a post-apocalyptic disaster movie.

Trees torn out by their roots lay discarded amongst the wreckage of splintered wood, twisted metal, and unidentifiable rubbish that had been torn up, washed away or unceremoniously dumped by the rampaging water. An

occasional piece of untouched earth stood out amongst the wreckage, but these were interspersed with jagged tears, as though giant claws had reached down and ripped the grass and rocks away. The few trees that were still standing were broken and twisted, struggling to stay alive. They'd been submerged under three metres of water for almost two weeks.

All in all, it was the perfect playground for two teenage boys looking for an adventure.

The boy spotted his friend standing next to a tall, bone-white tree, and raced in that direction. He made a brief detour to leap on to the surviving half of a picnic table and then over a pile of rocks, before coming to a stop beside the second boy. At the base of the tree was a splintered hollow, black scorch marks radiating out from it like ghostly fingers. It was obviously the result of a lightning

strike, although whether that had come before or after the flood was impossible to tell.

"Whaddaya reckon that is?" the second boy asked. The first boy followed his friend's pointed finger up to a branch some three metres above them. There, tangled amongst a bundle of leaves, twigs, reeds and rubbish, was a bright, green piece of fabric.

"Dunno," the first boy answered. "Let's check it out."

It didn't take long for them both to clamber up. The second boy slid out along the branch until he could reach the bundle, then started pulling at it. The first waited at the trunk.

Twigs and leaves were dropped unceremoniously to the ground. A plastic shopping bag and a faded chip packet went the same way. Finally, the

Wildly creative? Does the artist within you need unleashing?

Funding is available for artistic endeavours

Regional Arts Development Fund

Applications close 28th October 2011

<http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/community/grants/Pages/cultural.aspx>

THE REGIONAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND IS A QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT AND TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP TO SUPPORT LOCAL ARTS AND CULTURE



boy pulled out a dirty, soggy bundle of cloth and tucked it under his arm. He paused to push the last of the wreckage to the ground and watch it fall, then retreated back to where his companion was waiting.

"What is it?" the first boy asked eagerly.

"Dunno," the second boy answered. "Maybe a bag or somethin'. There might be somethin' inside..." He steadied himself on the branch and used both hands to start to untangle the mess of fabric in his hands.

"Maybe money," exclaimed the first boy excitedly, "Or a gun."

They both watched eagerly as the cloth was smoothed out, and then their excitement faded as the mysterious package settled into the boringly familiar shape of a doll in a torn and faded green dress. Her blonde hair was mostly missing, and her face had been almost completely washed away by the water, but the shape was unmistakable.

"It's just a Groovy Girl doll," the first boy said with clear disappointment.

His mate snorted in derision. "What, you play with dolls now?"

"No," the first boy said defensively. "My little sister's got one. It turns into a mermaid." They both paused to look at the bedraggled mass of cloth for a moment before he went on, "She won't go anywhere without the stupid thing. She can't even sleep without it. She'd never let it get washed away; not in a million years."

They both looked down at the ravaged remnants of the doll. There was no telling how long she'd been in the water, or where she'd originally come from. There was no telling what had happened to the girl who had once loved her. The silence stretched on for a few minutes before either of them spoke.

"I gotta go home."

"Me too."

In unspoken agreement, they passed the doll carefully between themselves as they climbed down. No words were exchanged. They stood awkwardly at

the base of the tree, the second boy cradling the doll in his arms. Then he laid her gently in the hollow at the base of the tree.

The boys looked down at her quietly, the seconds stretching into a minute. Then the first boy moved. He dashed to a pile of rocks and carefully selected one that was roughly the shape and size of a large book. He carried it back to the tree and placed it across the opening of the hollow. He didn't look at his friend. He just said, "For remembering."

Then, without another word, they turned and went their separate ways home.

A Step Beyond

Alison Annesley

Pinnacles Gallery
18 June – 21 August 2011

Opening celebration:
4pm Saturday 18 June

Watercolour Workshop Series:
6pm – 9pm Thursday
23 June, 7 July, 21 July and 4 August
Age: 15+
Cost: \$100; \$80 concession
Bookings: 4773 8871

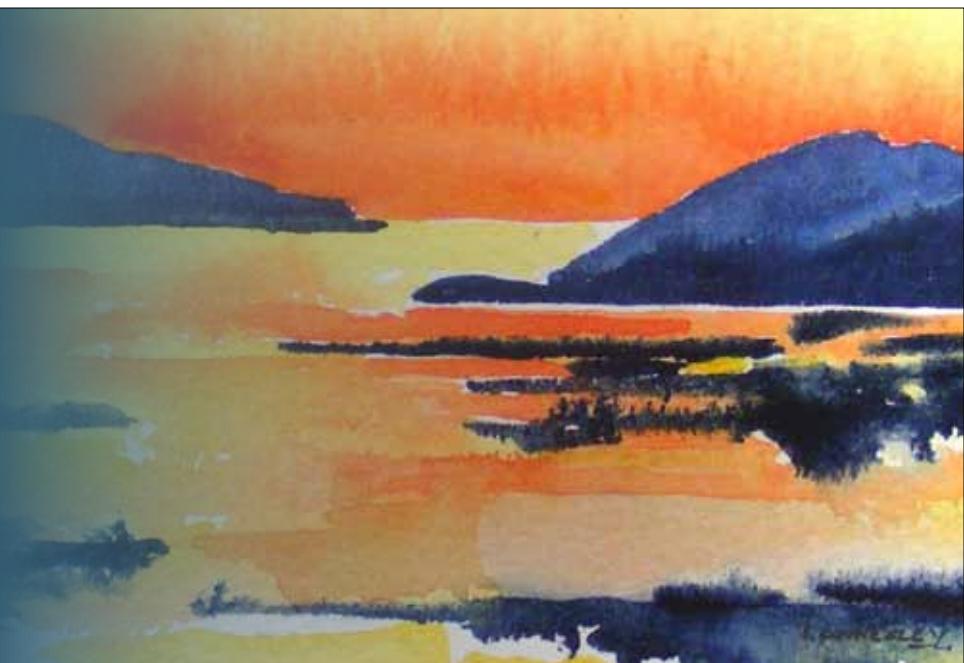


Image: Alison Annesley, *Golden Morning* (detail), 2010, watercolour on paper
Pinnacles Gallery
Riverway Arts Centre, 20 Village Boulevard, Thuringowa Central 4817
Wed - Thurs 11am - 5pm; Fri 11am - 7pm, Sat - Sun 10am - 5pm; Closed Mondays and Tuesdays
07 4773 8871 pinnacles@townsville.qld.gov.au
www.townsville.qld.gov.au



TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

THE DOG'S LEAD

SHORT FICTION BY ANDY KING

We both dashed to the 12.15 am beep beep beeps coming from the phone, sleeping on edge, on the periphery of the arriving weather event. Wind would start mid morning. From sleep's refuge we huddled at the small rectangle of illumination, like endangered moths attracted without choice.

Townsville Mayor advises that your home may be in storm surge zone. Evacuation to friends or family away from coastal areas is advised today.

No ordinary Wednesday. We'll sort it out in the morning, she said.

It's as still as out there, not a puff, I replied, returning from the window – it might stay like that you reckon?

Silence

The dogs, photos, food, the preordained list on the fridge, began to scroll through my being, prompting a nervous dance in my psyche.

Stay; ride it out, look after the place... or, get out, take what's important and go, the list, where is that list!!... this thought gets the stomach dancing too.

More beeps... like a thick underline to the earlier;

DMQ advise – leave am Wednesday – you are in a possible inundation zone.

Okay – rest, breathe, we'll check it out.

3 am and the list returns;

Food boxes

Water containers

Papers

Put photo albums in the dishwasher

Sleeping bags

Matresses

Dog food

Dog mattress

Dog leads

Pillows

I feel each end of my pillow, there in the dark, my evacuation buddy, holding my head.

The leads, where are they?

My imagination runs to the cliff and jumps. What if the dogs run off while we are trying to load up the wagon? The dog leads. I know where one is, but the big dog's one, no idea? I get up and look in the bedrooms, laundry, kitchen, no lead; no wonder. Panic leads to manic to silly. Monty's walking lead - I open the food pantry and look at the dog food pack, the association doesn't help – no lead materializes.

An image of our wild golden retriever darting left then right, dancing into the distance carried by cyclonic winds, taunts me, and re-energizes my search.

Under the bed? – yeah sure, pieces of Lego and One sock stare back.

In the fridge? I don't open it, my chest tightening with lost object anxiety.

Morning and the list, minus my lost dog accessory is packed in the back. Children and both dogs in.

'I'm not going till I find his lead!'

The rest of the family take in my decree – their collective faces reply;

'your kidding!'

I head back inside and charge into each room wildly eyeing each, the lead my focus, the blurred scan hardwiring itself inside, as my last look before it hits. I hear the wind – giant raindrops collide with the window glass.

Search abandoned, I get back to the door, have a last look, and feel the lead on the knob of the door handle. With a guttural exhale of breath "we can go now!" I trumpet from the veranda."

With the lead clasped to my chest, I jump in, and we're gone.

STOCKISTS

Betty Blue
8/95 Denham Street
Townsville QLD 4810
4724 2554

Dancenorth
Cnr Walker & Stanley Sts
4772 2549

eMerge Media Space
School of Creative Arts
James cook University
4781 3142

Full Throttle Theatre Company
Court House Theatre
4721 5433

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
Cnr Denham St & Flinders Street
4727 9011

Pinnacles Gallery
Riverway Arts Centre
Thuringowa
4773 8871

Studio 2
Flinders St West

Townsville Art Society
Art on Kings, Kings Rd Pimlico
4725 0250

Sylvia Ditchburn Fine Art Gallery
Shop 7 Metro Quays
86 Ogden St CBD
4724 3953

The Cultural Centre
2-68 Flinders St East
4772 7679

The Coffee Club
59 The Strand
North Ward QLD 4810
4724 3222

Umbrella Studio
482 Flinders St West
4772 7109

Selected Newsagents, libraries
and coffee shops

Drawing Workshop Series

Members \$35 | Non-Members \$45 per workshop

Join artist/teacher Hannah Murray in a series of Drawing Workshops that combine observational drawing skills with mixed media techniques to create expressive and experimental artworks. Appropriate for emerging as well as experienced artists.

1. Still Life 5.30 – 9.00pm Thursday 2 June 2011 (Studio)
2. Life Drawing 5.30 – 9.00pm Thursday 9 June 2011 (Studio)
3. Portraits 5.30 – 9.00pm Thursday 16 June 2011 (Studio)
4. Spaces Saturday 2 – 5.30pm 25 June 2011
(Meet at the studio for a travelling workshop)

Cost includes all materials and light refreshments will be provided each workshop except Saturday 25 June BYO. Discount applies for all workshops.

Drawing with Intaglio

5:30 to 9:00pm Tuesday 21 June 2011

\$5 Members Only

Take drawing to the next level using a very simple but effective acetate intaglio process and create a series of dry-point prints. This workshop will begin with a drawing activity followed by intaglio printmaking.

Students In Ink – Student Opportunity

3.30pm – 5.30pm Thursday 19th May, Thursday 26th May, Thursday 2nd June, Thursday 9th June, Thursday 16th June, Thursday 23rd June 2011 | \$100 Total (Six classes @ \$15 +GST) Umbrella Studio is offering an exciting opportunity for students between the ages of 12 – 18 years to work with professional printmakers and artists in weekly print workshops. Over six weeks students will gain professional skills in a range of print mediums including: relief printing, non-toxic intaglio printing, photo-release printing, t-shirt screen printing and artist's book.



Discover Drypoint with local printmaker Jo Lankester

Saturday & Sunday 18 & 19 June 2011

Members \$130 + \$15 Material costs, Non-Members \$155 + \$15 Material costs

In this weekend workshop you will explore different tools and plate surfaces to create your drypoints, such as a range of drypoint needles, a dermal tool and sand paper. Also discover how to print using different whipping techniques and how to apply Chine-collé, a special technique in printmaking in which the image is transferred to a surface that is bonded to a heavier support in the printing process, usually a thin Japanese paper.

Flinders Street Opening Party

10am – 2pm Saturday 6 August 2011 | FREE

Fibres and Fabrics members are in the final stages of creating work for *Alba leucos* a collaborative exhibition to be held at Umbrella Gallery 19 August – 25 September. Come and join some of the members and check out what they are doing for this exhibition or get creative and help out to make some work that will be included in the exhibition.

Destiny Deacon Artist Talk

11am Sunday 10 July 2011 | FREE

Introduction to Screen Printing

10am - 4pm Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 June and Saturday 2, Sunday 3 & Monday 4 July 2011

Members \$320 + \$30 Material costs
| Non-Members \$380 + \$30 Material costs

Take the mystic out of screen printing and over two weekends learn how to screen print textiles with Maxine Smith. Starting with paper stencils learn the process of developing screens using photo emulsion and experiment with designs and fabrics. Each participant will complete a finished article, for example a scarf, bag, tea towel or wall hanging. No experience necessary.

Exhibitions | Workshops | Events

Bookings Essential call 4772 7109 or email admin@umbrella.org.au